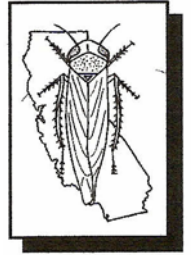


# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



## **CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM**

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Weekly Report for Week Ending September 21, 2012

### **Kern County**

Beet leafhopper (BLH) surveys were conducted in Kernridge and rangeland near Williams Pump. Both locations have low host plant densities, are sparse and appear dry and fatigued. Russian thistle remains dense and widespread near Williams; however, viability has been compromised by excessive summer heat and livestock grazing. BLH counts averaged 2 adults per sweep on the north end, and 0 to 2 on the south end. BLH populations continue to remain low throughout the area, including Williams Pump and Kernridge. New migration, at this time, appears unlikely.

Russian thistle has developed recently in the vicinity of Blackwell Corner, and west along Hwy 46. Plants, however, appear stifled and stunted; most likely the result of excessive sheep grazing and chronic dry summer conditions. BLH surveys found very little activity in this area. Counts were consistently less than 1 per sweep.

A portion of the Flats, west of Lost Hills, and the Lost Hills Oil Field near town continue to endure. This region still maintains ample amounts of Russian thistle and a relatively small BLH population. Surveys produced 1 to 4 BLH counts on the flats, 0 to 1 in the oil field, and 2 to 5 per sweep near the airport. Large tracts of conservation land in the area produced similar low counts on *Bassia* and Russian thistle.

### **Fresno County**

The potential treatment acreage continues to shrink on the westside of Fresno County as approximately 3,300 acres remain uncultivated at this time. Cultivation continues on Westland Water District property as they continue to work up weedy ground. BLH populations are found to be increasing dramatically in some areas as the BLH populations becomes concentrated on fewer remaining acres of Russian thistle and other summer host plants.

### **Kings County**

BLH survey was conducted in the vicinity of 25<sup>th</sup> and Devil's Den Road in Kings County. As much as 50 % of the Russian thistle has begun to stress substantially in the area. With the addition of a recent BLH hatch, the average counts have increased to 10 to 12 BLH's per single sweep. High counts of 30+ can be found occasionally. The nymphs comprise 2/3 of the current BLH population.

Russian thistle within Sandridge Farms has also begun to stress and BLH population is currently low. This area will continue to be monitored for additional BLH migrations or a hatch of nymphs.

**Fresno Facility**

Approximately 50% of the property waivers have been returned from the property owners.